REMARKS

The specification has been amended along the lines suggested by the Primary Examiner.

The Primary Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over SU 1,196,096 or over the Anderko et al. U.S. Patent No.3,764,575 in view of ,the Melling et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,573,055, as these rejections may be attempted to be applied to the amended claims, are respectfully traversed.

In support of the traverses, applicant first points out that claim 1 has been amended to additionally call for the soluble salts being sintered at approximately 200 degrees C and the heating of the salt cores in the thermal treatment is to a under 700 degrees C, in addition to the feature of mixing inorganic phosphates in the mixture at a fraction of between 0.5 and 10 % by wt. of the whole mixture. Support for these amendments are found in the last paragraph on page 1 of the specification.

The SU reference does not sinter at 200 degrees C. The SU does not teach sintering at all. Also the SU teaches heat/temperature treatment at 300 degrees C, although it refers to conventional heat/temperature treatment at 700 degrees C. Further the SU does not teach applicant's phosphate fraction of between 0.5 and 10 % by wt. of the whole mixture.

Anderko et al. U.S. Patent No.3,764,575 does not teach applicant's sintering temperature of 200 degrees C, although it teaches curing at 100-150 degrees C, which is not sintering which includes compression and heat. Further, Anderko does not teach a heat treatment at under 700 degrees (it teaches 450-600 degrees C). It also does not teach adding inorganic phosphates to the mixture or in applicant's faction of between 0.5-10% by weight of the mixture.

Melling et al. does not teach applicant's step of sintering, compression and hea treatment . Further, Melling et al. does not teach a sintering temperature of approximately 200 degrees C. Melling teaches heating at 50 to 90 degrees C, and if

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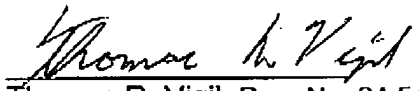
desired a bit later at 100 to 120 degrees C. Further Melling teaches heat treatment in excess of 1000 degrees C, not under 700 degrees C. Further, while teaching a binder fraction percentage of 0.5-25%, it does not teach applicant's fraction percentage of 0.5-10%.

Applicants water-soluble salt cores are made with the release of less toxic gases than prior art cores as a result of the inorganic phosphate concentration claimed, the sintering claimed and the subsequent heat treatment under 700 degrees C claimed.

In summary, applicant submits that the subject matter now set forth in amended claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art cited. Further, applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in condition for allowance and an early and favourable action to that end is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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